

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claims 5, 6, 9, 22, 23, 24, 27 and 32 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof.

The following is a complete listing of claims in this application.

Claims 1-2 (canceled)

3. (currently amended) The method of claim 18, in which the composition contains 17 $\beta$ -estradiol.

4. (currently amended) The method of claim 18, in which the composition contains estradiol valerate.

Claims 5-6 (canceled)

7. (currently amended) The method of claim 18 in which the composition contains from of 0.5 to 1.5 mg of free estradiol per daily dose.

8. (previously amended) The method of claim 18, in which the composition contains from 1.5 to 2 mg of an estradiol ester per daily dose.

Claims 9-12 (canceled)

13. (currently amended) The method ~~composition~~ of claim 18, in which the composition contains from 0.625 to 1.25 mg ~~per daily dose~~ of norgestrel acetate per daily dose.

Claims 14-17 (canceled)

18. (currently amended) A method of ~~preventing~~ correcting estrogen deficiencies in menopausal women consisting in continuously orally administering without interruption to menopausal women in need thereof a composition containing from 0.3 to 3 mg of an estrogenic compound selected from the group consisting of free estradiol, and estradiol esters ~~and conjugated equine estrogens~~ and from 0.3 to 1.25 mg of norgestrel acetate per daily dose.

19. (currently amended) A method of preventing osteoporosis in menopausal women consisting in continuously

orally administering without interruption to menopausal women in need thereof a composition ~~of~~ containing from 0.3 to 3 mg of an estrogenic compound selected from the group consisting of free estradiol, and estradiol esters ~~and conjugated equine estrogens~~ and from 0.3 to 1.25 mg of norgestrel acetate per daily dose.

20. (previously amended) The method of claim 19 in which the composition contains 17 $\beta$ -estradiol.

21. (previously amended) The method of claim 19 in which the composition contains estradiol valerate.

Claims 22-24 (canceled)

25. (previously amended) The method of claim 19 in which the composition contains from 0.5 to 1.5 mg of free estradiol per daily dose.

26. (currently amended) The method of claim 19 in which the composition contains from 1.5 to 2 mg of an estradiol ester per daily dose.

Claims 27-29 (canceled)

30. (currently amended) The method of claim 19, in which the composition contains from 0.625 to 1.25 mg of norgestrel acetate per daily dose.

31. (currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition for hormone replacement therapy, said composition being in oral administrable form and comprising, in combination, from 0.3 to 3 mg of an estrogenic compound selected from the group consisting of free estradiol ~~or~~ and esterified estradiol and from 0.3 to 1.25 mg of norgestrel acetate.

Claim 32 (canceled)